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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

June 4, 1979

Dear Mr. Fountain:

Thank you for your letter of April 24 addressed to Secretary Vance enclosing a copy of a letter to President Carter from your constituent, James Reston, Jr., concerning a Freedom of Information request for documents dealing with Rev. Jim Jones and the People's Temple.

Mr. Reston's Freedom of Information request was received in the Department of State on December 26 and his request was acknowledge on January 19. At that time the Department advised Mr. Reston that we anticipated a delay in processing FOI requests for the documents associated with the tragedy in Guyana. On May 4, the Department of State advised Mr. Reston that we were awaiting a decision from the Department of Justice as to the releasability of documents reviewed under the FOI Act in light of ongoing investigations by various State and Federal agencies. At that time, Mr. Reston was supplied a copy of the recently released Department of State investigatory report on the handling of the Jonestown situation.

To date, the Department of State has indexed a total of 2,062 documents associated with Rev. Jim Jones, Jonestown, and the People's Temple. Of that number, 902 documents were in the Department's files prior to or immediately following the Jonestown tragedy. At present, the Department interposes no objection to the release of 430 of these documents, pending the above-cited determination by the Department of Justice. In the meantime, the

The Honorable
L. H. Fountain,
House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 2/27/81
FD☐ or XDC☐ EXT. DATE
REASON(S)
ENDORSED RESTRICTED MARKING ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

Department is continuing to review, for possible release, the remaining documents and Mr. Reston will be advised of any determination as it applies to the release of documents in this case.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

Drafted by: KRStrawberry:Debbie
FADRC/DR-FOI: [redacted]
Approved by:
FADRC/DR:FMMachak
X26620 5/15/79
AS No. 051245

Clearances:
O/FADRC:WHPrice
L/ARA: Fortune
ARA: Dietrich
A/O:LJDupre
A:JMThomas
H:MGroobey

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